

κB. Dorsal is inhibited in Drosophila cells by Cactus, which is itself homologous to the NF-κB inhibitor IκB.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

31. (Amended) A method of making an IRAK-4 polypeptide, the method comprising:

(i) introducing a nucleic acid into a host cell or cellular extract, said nucleic acid encoding an IRAK-4 polypeptide, said polypeptide having at least about 98% amino acid sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:1 or to a subsequence thereof, wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide comprises an alanine residue at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 81 of SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein said nucleic acid comprises at least about 400 nucleotides;

(ii) incubating said host cell or cellular extract under conditions such that said IRAK-4 polypeptide is expressed in the host cell or cellular extract; and

(iii) recovering the IRAK-4 polypeptide from the host cell or cellular extract.

38. (Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein said compound is identified using a method comprising the steps of:

(i) contacting an IRAK-4 polypeptide with said compound, wherein said IRAK-4 polypeptide comprises at least about 70% amino acid sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3; and

(ii) determining the functional effect of said compound on said IRAK-4 polypeptide.

54. (Amended) The method of claim 47, wherein said inhibitor comprises a compound identified using a method comprising the steps of: